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Profiles of Valor: Iowa's Medal of Honor Recipients of the Civil War

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of freedom seekers he aided. According to Mull, in 1853 Shugart and his wife, Susanna, "traveled further west to Farma [*sic*] County, Iowa" (63). She means *Tama* County; Zachariah Shugart died in 1881 and is buried in the Irving cemetery four miles north of Belle Plaine. There is no known evidence that he engaged in Underground Railroad activities after relocating to Iowa.

In one other reference to Iowa, Mull briefly describes John Brown and his men "escorting eleven fugitives" (actually twelve, after a baby christened "John Brown Daniels" was born while the party was in Kansas) in February 1859. She writes that "the Quakers in Tabor, Iowa, did not offer the welcome Brown expected and instead censured him for his use of violence. Brown's men passed through other towns and were hailed as heroes in Grinnell" (155). The incorrect identification of the Tabor Congregationalists as "Quakers" likely comes from David Reynolds's *John Brown, Abolitionist* (2005), who makes the same mistake, and whom she cites.

Although Mull's chronological organization seems logical, there are instances when a more topical organization might give readers a better sense of how the various Underground Railroad stations and conductors interacted with each other. Also, more local maps would be helpful to readers in other parts of the country not familiar with Michigan's local geography. But Carol Mull has produced a remarkably readable book, and she has performed a useful service in collecting for the first time a fairly complete narrative of the Underground Railroad in Michigan in a single accessible volume. It should be a useful resource for many years to come.

Profiles of Valor: Iowa's Medal of Honor Recipients of the Civil War, by Dennis H. Black. Des Moines: State Historical Society of Iowa, 2010. 475 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes. \$44.95 cloth, \$29.95 paper.

Reviewer Kenneth L. Lyftogt is a lecturer in history at the University of Northern Iowa. He is the author of several books on Iowa and the Civil War, including *Iowa's Forgotten General: Matthew Mark Trumbull and the Civil War* (2005).

Profiles of Valor, by Dennis H. Black of Newton, a member of the Iowa Senate, is a good example of history done as a labor of love and respect, a self-assigned task by someone truly interested in the subject. Black's interest in the Civil War comes from a familial connection: both of his great-great-grandfathers served in the war. His chief interest is in the "acts of extreme valor" for which soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor. Black has personally met with many living recipients of our

nation's highest military award, and his conversations with them led to his research into Iowa's Civil War heroes who received the medal.

The federal government recognizes 30 Civil War-Era Medal of Honor recipients as being from Iowa, but Black takes the task further, including those who have even a slight connection to Iowa, resulting in 56 men and one woman who received the medal.

The book begins with a standard introduction to the war and Iowa's part in it, an introduction as good as most and better than many. Black then goes on to explain the history of the medal itself, an important part of the book that others might have neglected. He explains his thorough methodology and briefly describes the kind of actions that resulted in the medal being awarded.

The rest of the book — and its heart and soul — is a series of military stories from various aspects of the war, ranging from an Iowa connection to the famous "Andrews Railroad Raid" of 1862 to battlefield stories from many of the war's bloodiest struggles, even including stories of sailors with links to Iowa. Black's research is solid, and his writing style is comfortable. Readers will enjoy the rich illustrations, maps, and photographs that accompany the military adventures. Those seeking stories of their particular favorite Iowa Medal of Honor recipient will seldom be disappointed.

The book can be criticized on several points. First, Black's desire to find Medal of Honor recipients with Iowa connections might have gone too far. There is a crucial difference between those who enlisted from Iowa communities and served in Iowa regiments and those who served in regiments from other states and who only happened to settle in Iowa after the war. That distinction is too often blurred, which dilutes Iowa's role in the war. The book also lacks an index, something necessary for a book that will serve primarily as a reference work. Such criticisms aside, this is a fine contribution to Iowa history. It is a work that should be in every library in the state and would be a valued addition to the personal collection of anyone who is interested in Iowa Civil War history.

Legal Executions in the Western Territories, 1847–1911, by R. Michael Wilson. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Co., 2010. v, 222 pp. Addendum, bibliography, index. \$95.00 paper.

Reviewer Michael J. Pfeifer is associate professor of history at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, The City University of New York. He is the author of *The Roots of Rough Justice: Origins of American Lynching* (2011) and three articles in the *Annals of Iowa* on the history of lynching and criminal justice in Iowa.